

## ZERO CARBON SCHOOLS REMOTE PROGRAMME – INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

Green Schools Project was set up in 2015 to help schools educate their pupils about climate change and empower them to lead projects that tackle environmental issues, inspiring change in their school and wider communities.

In 2020-21 we piloted a new programme called Zero Carbon Schools which is the next logical step given the urgency and severity of the climate crisis now facing society. These are the intended outcomes of the programme:

- Develop participating pupils' knowledge of climate change.
- Support pupils to take action to reduce carbon emissions, enabling them to become green champions with the skills and aspirations to inspire change in their school and local communities.
- Support teachers to implement whole school actions to tackle climate change and to bring climate and nature into their lessons.
- Support a parent group to run community events that turn the school into a learning hub for how to reduce carbon emissions on an individual and local community level.
- Support schools to take their first steps towards becoming a zero carbon school.
- Enable schools to promote the work that they are doing, encouraging more to follow, and establishing them as leaders in efforts to tackle climate change.

We delivered the pilot in 4 schools (both primary and secondary) in Waltham Forest in 2020-21. To increase our impact and make the programme available to more schools, this academic year we are trialling a remote national rollout to enable schools anywhere in the UK to access its transformative approach.

The programme has been fully funded through grants from trusts and foundations, meaning that we are able to offer it free to schools. For those schools that would like additional support we are offering a premium remote programme at a cost of £750 per school.

The following elements will be part of the programme:

Activity	Free	Premium
Session plans and resources suitable for Years 4 - 9 available via website	✓	✓
Monthly 'How To' session with an introduction to sessions and activities, questions and suggestions	✓	✓
Buddy system – schools paired and in groups of four for peer support and sharing of ideas	✓	✓
Support with carbon emission calculations that lead to an estimate of the school's total carbon footprint	✓	✓
Introductory video call with teacher coordinator, SLT member, school business manager and site manager		✓
Assembly for pupils delivered via video call		✓
Teacher training session delivered via video call		✓
Additional support with carbon emission calculations		✓
One to one support call once per term		✓



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The free programme will be available to a maximum of 50 schools. Participating schools will need to commit to implementing the following activities throughout the year.

- One session of 30 min-1hr (45 mins is ideal) per week with at least 2 classes.
  - This should preferably be within school curriculum time.
  - For primary it is best for whole classes to hold these sessions. Year 5 is ideal, but the sessions are suitable for Years 4-6.
  - For secondary the sessions are suitable for Years 7-9. They can be done with whole classes or with selected groups of pupils.
- One hour of CPD time should be made available, twice during the year.
  - This will ensure that all teachers are confident in supporting the programme through whole school actions and bringing elements of it into lessons in all curriculum areas.
- One parent engagement event should be organised.
  - Guidance and support for this will be provided.
  - From this event a parent group will be formed to organise further events during the year.

All session plans, resources and guidance will be provided ahead of the programme. This is a cross-curricular programme with links to maths, english, science and geography curriculum areas.

Stage 1: Understand climate change and the need to go zero carbon.

Stage 2: Understand how schools create carbon emissions in the areas of energy, food, travel and purchasing. Calculate your school's carbon footprint.

Stage 3: Run projects that aim to reduce your school's carbon emissions in one or more areas.

Stage 4: Look beyond the school – encourage and inspire others to reduce their carbon emissions and tackle climate change.

Each half term there will be an outdoor session and throughout the sessions there are skill building activities that help develop teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.

#### Start Dates and Next Steps

- Cohort 1 started the programme on 27<sup>th</sup> September. We are now looking for schools for **cohort 2 starting on 1<sup>st</sup> November** (coinciding with the COP26 summit) and **cohort 3 starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January**.
- [Click here for the Zero Carbon Schools Remote Programme Agreement](#). Sign and return it to Beth Newman (email address below) to secure your place on the programme, indicating which start date you would prefer.
- Once you've returned the agreement, you will be provided with a login to the Green Schools Project website and will be able to download the resources and guidance.

Please send completed agreements to Beth Newman: [beth.newman@greenschoolsproject.org.uk](mailto:beth.newman@greenschoolsproject.org.uk)  
If you have any questions, please email Beth, or give her a call on 07464639369



## Further Information from the Pilot This Year

[Read our Zero Carbon Schools Pilot Impact Report to find out what outcomes were achieved.](#)

Example projects that pupils ran:

### George Mitchell School

- Encouraging the school to install solar panels.
- Holding a low energy day to raise awareness of saving energy.
- Switching from single use to re-useable plates and cutlery in the school canteen.

### Salisbury Manor Primary School

- Encouraging low carbon and healthy packed lunches.
- Reducing food waste
- Encouraging more low carbon and healthy dishes on the school menu.
- Holding a pupil and teacher walk to school week.



Pupils at Selwyn Primary School take part in an outdoor learning session at a local wooded area

*“Green Schools Project has been phenomenal in working with us to transform our whole school community’s understanding of climate change and the part we can all play in making a difference.”*

Heather Stokes, Head of School, Eslington Primary School



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